

House Resolution No. 2743

Whereas, it is with utmost respect that the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause in their daily legislative endeavors in order to recognize those Show-Me State residents who truly embody the concept of Outstanding Missourian through their deeds and achievements; and

Whereas, Morris Collins has attained considerable distinction in life as an educator and artist who taught art to elementary students for thirty-three years in the Warrensburg School District; and

Whereas, a native of Johnson County, Morris Collins was born into the loving family of Jesse T. and Barbara Collins and grew up on a farm northeast of Warrensburg with a brother, Michael, and two sisters, Karen Levine and Mary Jean Roberson; and

Whereas, Morris Collins developed an interest in art early in life and was often found drawing on discarded wallboard, the blank beginning or ending pages of the family encyclopedias, or in "Big Chief" tablets; and

Whereas, a black man who was born into a segregated, white-oriented society, Morris Collins found many of life's avenues closed to him, including those that led to the entrances of city parks, restaurants, good schools, and the ground floor of the local movie theater; and

Whereas, the long, laborious arrival of integration changed many of the day-to-day details of the life of Morris Collins who had spent much of his time in high school traveling by bus to and from classes in Sedalia before earning two college degrees and becoming the first black teacher ever hired by the Warrensburg School District; and

Whereas, on May 12, 2003, Morris Collins will meet with state legislators in the Missouri House of Representatives to receive well-deserved honors and accolades for the exemplary role he has played in the Warrensburg area as an elementary teacher, artist, and all-around good citizen:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the significant contributions made by Morris Collins on behalf of the people and institutions of Missouri and to extend to him this legislative body's most heartfelt welcome to the state capitol on May 12, 2003, for special recognition as a guest in the House Chamber; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of "Outstanding Missourian" Morris Collins of Warrensburg, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative David Pearce
District No. 121
Joined by Entire House Membership

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 2743, adopted May 9, 2003.

Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker